

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

A "Replacement Sheet" is attached which includes a clean version of amended Fig. 1. The attached sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

An "Annotated Sheet Showing Changes" is also attached which includes a marked-up version of Fig. 1.

Fig. 1 was amended to include the legend --Prior Art--.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 22, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-8 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-3, 6 and 7 have been amended. New claims 9 and 10 have been added. Claim 8 has been canceled. As a result, claims 1-7, 9 and 10 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 9 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Drawings

The Office Action noted that Fig.1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. Applicants have herein amended Fig. 1 to include the legend --Prior Art--.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Claims

The Office Action objected to claims 6-8 as being of improper dependent form. Applicants have added new independent claim 9, with a preamble as suggested by the Examiner, and amended claim 6 to depend from claim 9. Claim 7 remains dependent from claim 6, while claim 8 has been canceled.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office Action rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 1 to address the Examiner's concerns.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Peterson, Jr., US Patent Number 5,857,020 (Peterson). Applicants respectfully disagree. In addition, without acceding to the appropriateness of the rejection, Applicants have amended claims 1-3, 6 and 7 to more clearly distinguish over the cited reference.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A system for detecting an exceeding of time conditions of at least one application executed by a processor, comprising:

a storage element for storing the time conditions, wherein *said time conditions comprise deadlines and are sorted by an increasing deadline order*;

a register for *storing a time condition closest to a current date of the system*; and

a comparator for *comparing a deadline of the time condition contained in said register with the current date of the system to provide an interrupt if the current date of the system exceeds the deadline*.

(Emphasis added).

Peterson is directed to providing a method and apparatus for enabling access, dependent upon timed availability, to secured content provisioned on a storage medium (col. 2, lines 18-21). One timed availability scheme is to not allow access to the secured contents of the storage medium 10, having been distributed in advance, *until a predetermined date and time* (col. 4, lines 24-26; Figs. 1 and 2). According to this scheme, a consumer may request and receive authorization to access the contents of the storage medium 10, but may not be enabled to access the secured content until the date and time associated with the premier event (col. 4, lines 25-41). Upon expiry of a window during which the consumer may be allowed unlimited use of the content, another window may be initiated by the consumer requesting and receiving authorization (col. 4, lines 47-53).

Peterson does not describe a storage element for storing the time conditions, wherein said time conditions comprise deadlines and are sorted by an increasing deadline order, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Peterson does not describe a register for storing a time condition closest to a current date of the system.

Therefore, Peterson does not teach or suggest “a system for detecting an exceeding of time conditions of at least one application executed by a processor, comprising: a storage element for storing the time conditions, wherein said time conditions comprise deadlines and are sorted by an increasing deadline order; a register for storing a time condition closest to a current date of the system; and a comparator for comparing a deadline of the time condition contained in said register with the current date of the system to provide an interrupt if the current date of the system exceeds the deadline,” as recited in claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Peterson.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New independent claim 9 recites:

A method for detecting an exceeding of time conditions of at least one application executed by a processor, comprising:

storing the time conditions in a storage element, wherein the time conditions comprise deadlines and are sorted by an increasing deadline order;

storing a time condition closest to a current date in a register; and

comparing a deadline of the time condition contained in the register with the current date to provide an interrupt to the processor if the current date exceeds the deadline.

(Emphasis added).

As discussed above, Peterson does not teach or suggest “a method for detecting an exceeding of time conditions of at least one application executed by a processor, comprising: storing the time conditions in a storage element, wherein the time conditions comprise deadlines and are sorted by an increasing deadline order; storing a time condition closest to a current date in a register; and comparing a deadline of the time condition contained in the register with the current date to provide an interrupt to the processor if the current date exceeds the deadline,” as recited in claim 9.

In view of the above, claim 9 is allowable.

Claims 6, 7 and 10 depend from claim 9 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6 and 7 is respectfully requested

CONCLUSION

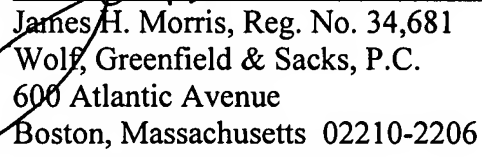
A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: July 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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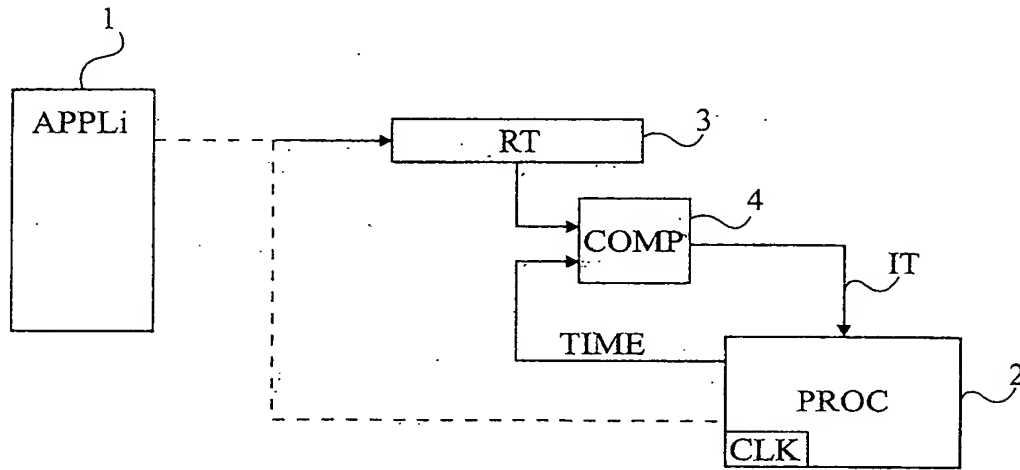


Fig 1
 (Prior Art)

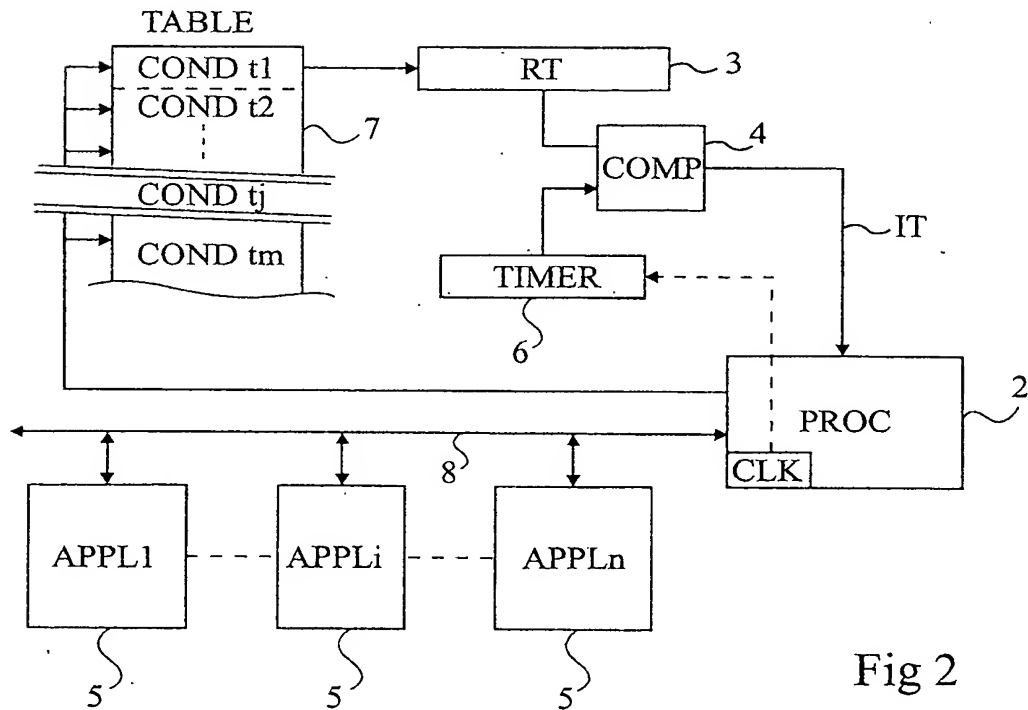


Fig 2